



Pueblo Heart Study Fact Sheet

About the Study:

- ▶ The Pueblo Heart Study was an observational, scientific research effort designed to assess the potential impact of a newly enacted smoke-free ordinance on heart attack admissions in Pueblo, Colo.
- ▶ The study evaluated the number of heart attacks in Pueblo, Colo., during a three-year period from January of 2002 to December of 2004. This time frame covered the year and a half before the Smoke-Free Air Act went into effect on July 1, 2003, as well as a year and a half afterward.
- ▶ Findings of the Pueblo study were presented at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions 2005 conference in Dallas on Nov. 14.

Key Findings:

- ▶ The study showed that heart attack rates in Pueblo decreased by 27 percent after implementation of the city's smoke-free ordinance.
- ▶ In the year and a half before Pueblo's smoke-free ordinance went into effect, **399** heart attack patients were admitted to Pueblo's two primary hospitals. In the year and a half following enactment of the ordinance, the number of heart attack admissions dropped to **291**, representing **108 fewer heart attack patients or a decrease of 27 percent**.
- ▶ Pueblo, Colo., is the second U.S. community to examine data on hospital admissions for heart attacks following the institution of a comprehensive indoor smoke-free ordinance.
- ▶ The Pueblo study's findings are similar to a study done in Helena, Mont., which noted a 40 percent drop in hospital admissions for heart attacks during a six-month period when Helena first implemented its smoking ordinance. Pueblo's study reinforces the Helena findings based on similar but improved methodology, including a sample size that was three times the one used in Helena.
- ▶ The Pueblo study didn't distinguish between smokers and non-smokers; it represented the entire population. These numbers represent a combination of both smokers and those impacted by secondhand smoke.

Interview Opportunities:

To speak with a researcher involved with the Pueblo Heart Study or a public health official in Pueblo or Denver, please contact Jenny Atchley or Barb Jones at (303) 292-6655.

Other possible interview sources:

- ▶ Dave Feamster, Pueblo businessman and owner of Little Caesar's restaurants, (719) 564-9611
- ▶ Thomas Carr, political analyst, American Lung Association, (202) 785-3355, tcarr@lungusadc.org
- ▶ Michelle Sawatka, director media relations, American Lung Association, (212) 315-8727, msawatka@lungusa.org
- ▶ Annie Tegen, senior program manager, Americans for Non-Smokers Rights, (206) 545-7175
- ▶ Charles Hodges, American Heart Association, (202) 785-7900, charles.hodges@heart.org
- ▶ Jennifer Friedman, associate director media relations, Campaign for Tobacco Free-Kids, (215) 247-7971, jfriedman@tobaccofreekids.org
- ▶ Kat Porter, media advocacy coordinator, American Cancer Society, (202) 585-3202, kathryn.porter@cancer.org
- ▶ Julie Cartwright, vice president communications, American Legacy Foundation, (202) 454-5596, jcartwright@americanlegacy.org

###